

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-32 and 33-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 38, and 39 are the independent claims.

Claim 33 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 4, 34, and 38 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 8-13 and 39 are allowed and that claims 6, 7, 14-28, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 37 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claims and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, Applicants have not amended any of claims 8-13 and 39 and respectfully submit that these claims should remain allowed. However, Applicants have cancelled claim 33 and amended independent claims 1 and 38 to recite features based on this cancelled claim. Claims 4-7, 14-28, 31, 34, 36, and 37 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-7, 14-28, 31, 34, 36, 37, and 38 are now in allowable form. Lastly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29, the status of which not being indicated by the Office Action, is now in allowable form as it depends from claim 28.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by KR 20-182808. Claims 1, 4, 30, 32, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,189,849 (Sweere et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,601,246 (Damico). Claim 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KR 20-182808.

It is respectfully submitted that all rejections are traversed for the reasons explained above, --namely the inclusion of patentable subject matter in independent claims 1 and 38.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject

application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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